

PUBLIC WATER FORUM MINUTES
SERIES 1

January 7, 2010

The City Council of the City of Norman, Cleveland County, State of Oklahoma, attended a Public Water Forum at 6:00 p.m. in the Municipal Building Council Chambers on the 7th day of January, 2010, and notice of the forum was posted at the Municipal Building at 201 West Gray 48 hours prior to the beginning of the meeting. The City of Norman is hosting a Public Forum Series on sustainable water resources for our future to explore long term solutions for Norman's drinking water needs. The public forums are open to everyone with an interest in water and Norman's future. Although this forum is not a regularly scheduled meeting of Council a quorum of Council was present; therefore, a summary of the forum is recorded as required by the Open Meeting Act.

PRESENT:

Councilmembers Atkins, Butler, Cubberley, Griffith, Kovach, Mayor Rosenthal

ABSENT:

Councilmembers Dillingham, Ezzell, and Quinn

INTRODUCTION AND PURPOSE OF SERIES.

Mayor Rosenthal welcomed the public to the first of eight sessions related to the Public Water Forum Series. She said tonight's session is proposed as an introduction and description of the purpose of the series and highlighted the topics of the subsequent series as follows:

- January 21st – State Water Plan
- February 4th - Other Water Supply Options (Reclaimed Water, Brackish Water, Arsenic Treatment Technologies)
- February 18th – Lake Thunderbird Augmentation Study/Central Oklahoma Master Conservancy District
- March 4th – Central Oklahoma Regional Raw Water Supply Solution
- March 25th - Use of Trusts to Collectively Acquire and Deliver Water Resources
- April 1st – Financial Condition of Norman's Utilities (Water, Sewer, Solid Waste)
- April 15th – Comparison of Financial Options Related to Long Term Water Solutions

Mr. Ken Komiske, Director of Utilities, provided an overview of the current water utility system including expenses and revenue and detailed the current water rates for residential and commercial customers. Norman's current sources are Lake Thunderbird (72%), wells (26%), purchasing water from Oklahoma City (2%). He said Norman has a Charter provision that requires an increase in utility rates be submitted to the legal voters of the City for their approval or rejection. He provided a comparison of Norman's rates with other cities in the state as well as Denton, Texas, and Lawrence, Kansas. Norman's rates are currently the lowest.

Mr. Komiske reviewed the capital improvements projects completed since the last rate increase in 2006 and highlighted the recent America Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) loan in the amount of \$14 million through the Oklahoma Water Sources Board to provide needed rehabilitation of the Water Treatment Facility including a new clarifier; filter replacement; chemical feed units; an emergency generator; and new electrical improvements and upgrades. He provided a broad overview of Norman's water usage; water production; conservation program; and water well development project.

Mr. Komiske summarized the 2040 Strategic Water Supply Plan and said the Plan provided an existing system assessment and identified 17 possible water resource alternatives. Each alternative was evaluated

and characterized based on quality, location, storage capacity, yield, cost, policy, etc. Six options were included in the report:

- Plan A - Do nothing
- Plan B – Garber Wellington Aquifer
- Plan C – Southeast Oklahoma
- Plan D – Hugo Reservoir
- Plan E - South Canadian River, one treatment plant
- Plan F - South Canadian River, two treatment plants

The Strategic Water Supply Plan recommended Plan C as the best alternative to meet Norman's mid and long term needs. Plan C includes bringing water from southeast Oklahoma to the metro area. Norman joined with other cities in the metro area to participate in the Central Oklahoma Water Supply Study.

Mr. Komiske said the City is aggressively considering any and all options which would provide additional water to meet the needs of Norman's future. He said the options will be presented in the subsequent forums and asked for questions and/or comments from those attending. He said all questions will be addressed before the forum series was concluded.

Items submitted for the record

1. PowerPoint presentation entitled, "Storm Water Master Plan," Public Meeting, dated April 6, 2009

COMPILATION OF QUESTIONS RECEIVED DURING THE FORUM.	
1.	<i>What does the City of Norman pay for Oklahoma City water?</i>
2.	<i>Why are the wells taken offline unsuitable? Is it due to arsenic, and, if so, are the amenable?</i>
3.	<i>Is technology available to treat brackish water?</i>
4.	<i>It was mentioned McGee Creek contained mercury and the question was raised whether it was usable as potable water.</i>
5.	<i>Has the City of Norman looked at ASR (aquifer storage and recovery)?</i>
6.	<i>Can non-potable water be used for other purposes?</i>
7.	<i>Are there regulations regarding how many wells can be within a certain radius?</i>
8.	<i>What is the relationship between the City of Norman and OU?</i>
9.	<i>Has an environmental impact study been conducted on bringing water from southeast Oklahoma to Norman/Oklahoma City?</i>
10.	<i>Have there been discussions with OU to consider remediation of their arsenic wells for potable water instead of purchasing water from the City of Norman?</i>
11.	<i>Will there be discussion on the use of cisterns and other ways to decrease usage?</i>
12.	<i>Can arsenic water be used in swimming pools?</i>
13.	<i>Arsenic wells – cost vs. life of well. Compare cost over several years including purchasing water from Oklahoma City.</i>
14.	<i>Have there been any discussions on zero-scaping?</i>

The meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

ATTEST:

City Clerk

Mayor